



Laboratory hosts community event for nonprofits

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Los Alamos National Laboratory hosted a well-attended Community Conversation at UNM-Los Alamos July 11 for nonprofit leaders in the region. The event focused on the challenges facing nonprofit staff and board members in the pursuit of organizational excellence, and looked for ways in which the Laboratory and its employees can help.

The morning began for the 90 attendees with a panel discussion including Barrios Unidos Executive Director Lupe Salazar, Pajarito Environmental Education Center Executive Director Katie Bruell, Mesa to Mesa Executive Director Inez Leibman, Laboratory Director Thom Mason, and N3B-Los Alamos Regulatory and Stakeholder Interface Program Manager Frazer Lockhart.

The nonprofit executives on the panel discussed their needs and challenges as nonprofits, and how businesses, organizations and individuals can help them. Mason and Lockhart addressed how nonprofits can connect with the Laboratory and N3B to seek funding and volunteers. Mason underlined that Lab operator Triad is concentrating its funding on the seven New Mexico counties surrounding the Laboratory by adjusting the criteria it uses to match contributions to the employees' giving campaign.

After the panel discussion, attendees divided into groups to discuss certain topics in more detail, including fundraising, communications and board development and recruitment.

"To have the most impact, we need to understand the issues that matter in the region as thoroughly as we can, and listen to feedback and suggestions on how the Laboratory can be a partner in addressing those issues," says Kathy Keith, director of the Laboratory's Community Partnerships Office.

"We also want to play a role in creating channels for our partners and colleagues to share their experience and expertise with each other – informal networking has always been a positive element of our meetings, so we're looking to build on that and create opportunities for more knowledge-sharing."

Kathy Keith (near the center, wearing a name badge) takes part in a table discussion with nonprofit leaders.